

Library of Congress Online Resources

Library of Congress Web Site

<http://www.loc.gov/>

The Library of Congress Web site provides a gateway to many resources for the study of history, including thousands of primary source materials. Important materials specifically relevant to K-12 curriculum include:

THOMAS: Legislative Information

<http://thomas.loc.gov/>

Here, students will find federal legislation that may impact many aspects of their own lives. THOMAS presents bills in their full-text as well as in summary. A searchable version of the *Congressional Record* is also available, as well as Congressional committee reports. Students can learn about the legislative process, find out what their Member of Congress has proposed, and examine public policy issues through the lens of Congress.

Exhibitions

<http://lcweb.loc.gov/exhibits/>

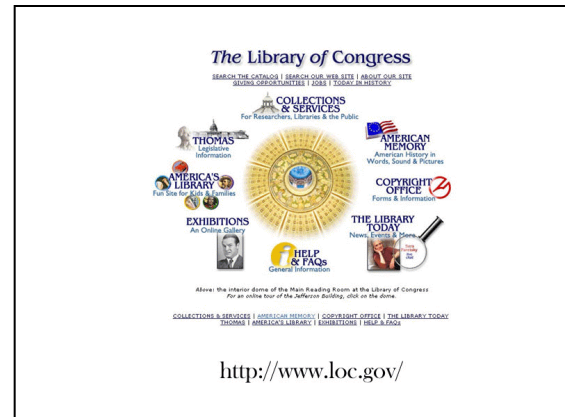
The Library of Congress assembles exhibits on a variety of topics for visitors to the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. Sometimes the material for these on-location exhibits come from Library of Congress collections; sometimes the materials are on loan from other institutions. Portions of these exhibits are digitized and presented on the Web.

Visit the “Treasures of the Library of Congress” exhibit to see Francis Scott Key’s handwritten text of the Star-Spangled Banner. Students may be amazed to learn that this song commemorating the flag that flew over Fort McHenry in the War of 1812 did not officially become the national anthem until 1931. Or, if students are researching the role of women in the workplace throughout our nation’s history, consider the online exhibit, “Women Come to the Front: Journalists, Photographers, and Broadcasters During WW II.” This economic and social “turning point” of women returning to the workforce can also be researched in many American Memory collections. (*See the American Memory description that follows.*)

Today in History

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/today.html/>

Here, students will find items from the American Memory collections that happened on or relate to today’s date. These illustrated essays provide links to the American Memory collections where many “turning points” in history have been documented in primary sources. Students may enjoy searching on their birthdays as an entry point to the collections.



American Memory

<http://memory.loc.gov/>

American Memory is the Library's online archive of primary sources that relate to the history and culture of America. This illustration shows the American Memory Home Page. As of this writing, there are more than 90 online collections of these primary source materials that are freely available to educators, students, and the general public. Collection materials include digitized documents, manuscripts, films, photographs, sound recordings, and maps. In most cases, no special viewers are required to make use of these materials, though RealAudio, QuickTime, and/or MPEG will be needed to hear and view sound and video recordings. These programs can be acquired without cost through the internet. Information on these programs and how to configure your Web browser is available on the Learning Page. (See *Learning Page description below.*)

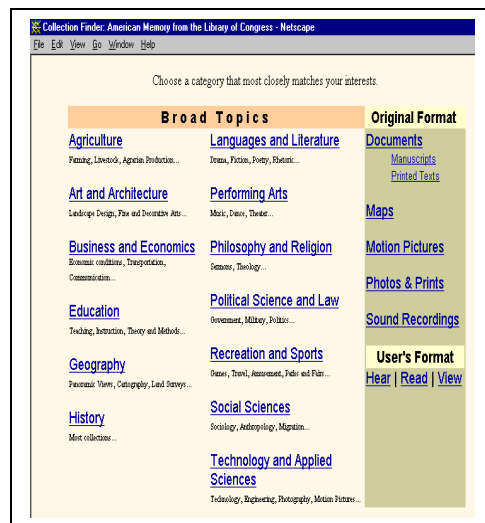


American Memory collections range from *Mr. Lincoln's Virtual Library* to *Selected Civil War Photographs* to *Alexander Graham Bell Family Papers*—all three collections representing the work of people and consequences of events that have changed the course of history. Students may be interested to know that the Library of Congress collection grew from Thomas Jefferson's private collection of 6,000 books that he sold to Congress near the end of his life. He noted, "there is, in fact, no subject to which a Member of Congress might not have reason to refer." The breadth of the American Memory collections is a reflection of this foundational belief. Students will be fascinated with photographs of Civil War soldiers as they learn more about the early use of photography to document the many aspects of war, including its horror. The inventions of Alexander Graham Bell and his work with the deaf community may become a springboard for an exploration of technological "turning points" in history. American Memory collections are rich and varied, providing unique and personal insights into American history and culture.

Use the Collection Finder to locate resources by broad topics or by format:

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/finder.html>.

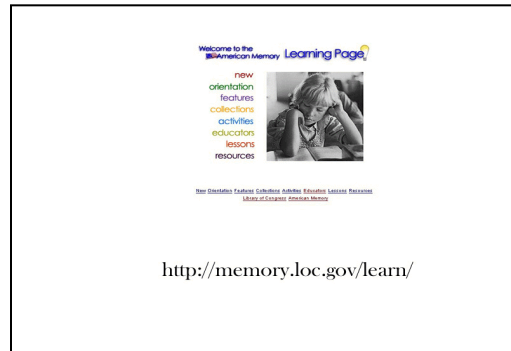
Or, choose the List All Collections option to see a brief list of all collections currently available. (Note: you will need to use your "scroll bar" after you have chosen this option to see this list.)



The Learning Page

<http://learning.loc.gov/learn/>

The Learning Page is a companion Web site to American Memory. It is designed to help educators and students become more familiar with the American Memory collections and their relevance to U.S. history and culture. The Learning Page is comprised of the following sections:



- **Orientation**—a quick overview of the Learning Page and how to get started finding materials within American Memory. Here you'll find easy-to-use subject lists organized by events, people, places, time, and topics, guidance in search vocabulary, and search tips.
- **Features**—fun and interactive essays that use materials from several American Memory collections to illustrate themes and topics familiar to a K-12 school audience. Features are not intended to be comprehensive, but rather to provide materials and starting points for exploration. Current features focus on elections, inaugurations, immigration, inventors and inventions, thanksgiving, and women pioneers.
- **Collections**—here, you'll find documents that provide an overview of an American Memory collection and the historical themes reflected in it. Items from the collection and search suggestions appear throughout, as do questions and activity ideas for building critical thinking skills in the use of primary sources.
- **Activities**—fun student exercises for building critical thinking skills while learning about history. For example, students will enjoy the Big Picture jigsaw puzzle and the Inventors & Invention treasure hunt.
- **Lessons**—guidance on using American Memory collections with specific learning objectives. Teachers will find many useful suggestions and lesson plans including "Historians' Sources." This lesson plan provides teacher materials and student activities that explore how to use primary sources in general; it is an excellent launching pad for using any of the American Memory collections.
- **Educators**—information about the National Digital Library Program (NDLP) and its outreach to K-12 teachers, media specialists, and technology and curriculum coordinators. Here you will find information on professional development opportunities and special programs sponsored by the NDLP.
- **Resources**—a variety of information, from help with copyright and citing electronic sources to technical tips on using the American Memory collections. Also available is a directory of links to other Web sites pertaining to history and social studies.

